of magnitude 5.0 on the Richter scale occurred at 0232 hours on 31st March, 1999 in the hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh. Tremors were also experienced on 7th April, 1999.

(b) As per available information, the earthquake reportedly affected a population of 4.92 lakhs of 3174 villages in 6 districts in Uttar Pradesh and caused damage to more that 66000 houses, besides loss of 105 human lives and injury to about 400 persons.

(c) and (d) As per available information, the State Government has so far distributed assistance of Rs. 539.92 lakhs towards ex-gratia to the next of kin of the deceased, gratuitous relief to the injured, ex-gratia for loss of cattle, assistance for damaged houses, etc.

The State Government is required to undertake relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of such natural Calamities from the allocation under the calamity Relief Fund (CRF). The entire Central share of CRF to the State for 1998-99 and the 1st quarterly instalment of Central share of CRF for 1999-2000 has been released. The Army, Air Force and Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) arc assisting the State machinery in relief operation and the Border Roads Organisation is assisting in clearance of roads blocked to traffic. In addition to CRF, assistance is provided to the States from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) for calamities of rare severity. No Memorandum has so far been received from the State Government, seeking assistance from the NFCR in this regard.

Deaths Due to Heat Wave

*349. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI:

SHRI ANANTA SETHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the death of people due to increasing heat wave in Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken to help the people who are affected by heat wave;

(c) whether heat wave is proposed to be included in the National Relief Code; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) According to the State Government, 12' deaths' have occurred during the current financial year upto (10.4.99) due to sun-stroke.

(b) Advance action has reportedly been taken by the State Government to make the people aware about the preventive measures to be adopted during heat wave conditions. The concerned Departments have taken/been suitably instructed to take the following steps:—

(i) Education Department to reschedule the programme of examinations of students and complete it by 30th April, 1999.

(ii) Labour and Employment Department to reschedule the working hours of labourers to avoid exposure to direct Sun from 12 noon to 4 P.M.

(iii) Health Department has taken steps to keep sufficient ice, saline and other life saving medicines in all hospitals for treatment of sunstroke patients.

(iv) Preventive actions to be taken by people during heat wave conditions has been publicised through Newspapers, Doordarshan, All India Radio to mate the people aware and take preventive actions.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has no proposal to treat heat- wave deaths as a natural calamity since the same can be prevented by adopting proper preventive measures.